(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the concrete and plaster of a number of columns have given way, considerably weakening the supporting pillars and the traffic load is on the remaining columns thereby endangering the flyover;

(c) if so, when was the bad condition of the flyover known to the railway authorities;

(d) what steps have been taken to strengthen the affected columns to save the flyover from total collapse; and

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for delay in taking up the repairing work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir, only in respect of the bridge proper. Responsibility for the maintenance of bridge approaches rests with the Municipal Corporation Delhi.

(b) Some damage to the columns has occurred, but the safety of the flyover is not endangered.

(c) In August, '89.

(d) The Railway has taken up repairs of the affected portion of the bridge.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (d) above.

Display of goods being supplied through Fair Price Shops

1357. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items being supplied through fair price shops;

(b) whether the fair price shops display the details of all items being supplied;

(c) if so, in what manner Government check the violation of the instruction and underhand dealings by the fair price shops owners; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue instructions to fair price shops to display the detailed list for publication?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oils, soft coke, kerosene and controlled cloth are allocated by the Central Government to States/UTs for supply through public distribution system outlets. Some of the States have included on their own, additional items such as pulses, tea, salt, soap, matches, coarse grains, etc. for distribution through fair price shops.

(b) to (d) Implementation of the PDS lies with the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. They have been advised from time to time that the orders relating to display of prices and stocks etc., should be strictly enforced. Some of the measures adopted to check violations of instructions, underhand dealings etc. are frequent inspection of the fair price shops, taking of appropriate action against erring fair price shop holders under the terms of the licence, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other similar legislations etc. State/UTs have also been advised to set up Consumer Advisory/Vigilance Committee at various levels including fair price shops level to oversee the functioning of the public distribution system.

Protection of domestic child labour

1358. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Child Labourers are employed as domestic servants and are exploited, harrassed and tortured by their employer in the event of revolt by these child labourers;

(b) if so, what protection has been provided to them by Government; and

(c) whether Government would consider to regulate the employment of domestic child servants with a view to provide them protection against inhuman treatment and low wages being paid by the employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) and (b) There is no specific and authentic information available in regard to exploitation and harassment of domestic child labour, as no authentic census or survey has been conducted in this matter. However, the phenomenon of children working as domestic servants on account of socio-economic conditions cannot be denied. The policy of Government is to prohibit employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and other hazardous employments and to regulate the working conditions of children in other employments. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 seeks to ban employment of children in certain hazardous occupations|processes and regulate the working conditions of children in other employments where child labour is not legally prohibited. A Technical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act to advise the Government regarding addition of more occupations|processes to the schedule of prohibited employments.

(c) The employment of children as domestic servants is in a widely scattered and unorganised sector and evolving a system for regulating this sector has not been found administratively feasible.

Free supply of water and electricity to farmers

1359. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide free supply of water and electricity to farmers for agriculture purpose;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, in what manner Governmen would support the farmers with a view to help them in competing with the soaring prices in the market;

(c) whether Government would subsidise supply of water, electricity and fertilizer etc. for agriculture purpose to provide the relief to farmers; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such subsidies ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While fixing the minimum support prices for the agicultural commodities, the cost of agricultural inputs like water, electricity, fertiliser, etc. are being taken note of.

(c) and (d) Supply of water and electricity to farmers is a state subject. The Central Government have no direct control on the tariffs fixed by the State Electricity Boards or by the State Irrigation Departments. Fertilisers are being subsidised taking note of the cost of production, including capital cost, transport cost and distribution.

Construction of over-bridges in Maharashtra

1360. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have recommended for construction of the over-bridges at (i) Tadali Railway crossing, (ii) Babupet Railway crossing; and (iii) Bisapur Railway crossing;

(b) whether the State Government have agreed to bear 15 per cent of the total cost of construction of the over-bridges;

(c) whether the Central Government have taken any decision in this regard;